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INCOMING TELEGRAM *Department of State*

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Action SS

Info

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CONTROL: 5063
RECEIVED: AUGUST 7, 1964, 12:43 A.M.

FROM: SAIGON

ACTION: SECSTATE 332 IMMEDIATE
DEFENSE 32 IMMEDIATE
WHITE HOUSE 24 IMMEDIATE

DATE: August 7, NOON

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By ___, NARS, Date JUL 30 1979

EXDIS

FOR RUSK FROM TAYLOR

DOD FOR MCNAMARA, WHITE HOUSE FOR BUNDY

AS YOU ARE AWARE, WE HAVE SUSPENDED ACTIONS UNDER OPERATION PLAN 34-A IN ORDER TO AVOID CONFUSING SIGNALS ASSOCIATED WITH RECENT EVENTS IN THE GULF OF TONKIN. THE JCS RPT JCS HAS NOW RPT NOW ASKED CINCPAC TO RECOMMEND A DATE FOR THE RESUMPTION OF THESE ACTIONS. FROM A MILITARY POINT OF VIEW, MARITIME OPERATIONS COULD BE RESUMED ABOUT AUG 10. AIR OPERATIONS, WHICH DEPEND UPON THE MOON PHASE, COULD BE SCHEDULED TO BEGIN AUG 17.

FROM THIS PERSPECTIVE, I CANNOT RPT CANNOT JUDGE THE TOTAL POLITICAL CONSEQUENCES WHICH MIGHT RESULT FROM RESUMPTION OF THESE ACTIONS AT AN EARLY DATE. IN GENERAL, I WOULD EXPECT THAT, UNLESS THE DRV RPT DRV OBTAINS JET FIGHTERS IN THE NEAR FUTURE, AIR OPERATIONS, WHICH ARE PRINCIPALLY RE-SUPPLY DROPS AND PROPAGANDA LEAFLETS DROPS COULD BE RESUMED WITH THE MOON PHASE ON AUG 17. HOWEVER THE MARITIME OPERATIONS, WHICH INCLUDE TWO OR THREE BOMBARDMENTS FROM SHIP TO SHORE, AS WELL AS JUNK CAPTURES, COULD ADVERSELY INTERFERE WITH ACTION UNDERWAY IN THE SECURITY COUNCIL AND ELSEWHERE. I THEREFORE HESITATE TO CONCUR IN ANY RECOMMENDATION BY MACV RPT MACV TO CINCPAC THAT THESE MARITIME OPERATIONS RECOMMENCE AS EARLY AS AUG 10 WITHOUT KNOWING WASHINGTON'S PLANNING IN THE LARGER POLITICAL ARENA.

ON THE OTHER HAND, IT IS MY CONVICTION THAT WE MUST RESUME THESE OPERATIONS AND CONTINUE THEIR PRESSURE ON NORTH VIETNAM AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, LEAVING NO RPT NO IMPRESSION THAT WE OR THE SOUTH VIETNAMESE HAVE BEEN DETERRED FROM OUR OPERATIONS BECAUSE OF THE TONKIN GULF INCIDENTS. I WOULD THEREFORE APPRECIATE YOUR COLLECTIVE GUIDANCE IN THE LIGHT OF THE CIRCUMSTANCES

~~TOP SECRET~~

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-2- 332, August 7, noon from Saigon

WHICH YOU CAN PERCEIVE FROM THE WASHINGTON PERSPECTIVE. SINCE THE BOATS EMPLOYED IN THE MARITIME OPERATIONS HAVE BEEN DISPERSED AND SHOULD BE REASSEMBLED AT THEIR MAIN BASE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, I WOULD APPRECIATE AN EARLY RESPONSE.

GP-1.

CFN 32 24 34-A 10 17 17 10

TAYLOR

Note: Advance copy to S/S-O at 3:01 a.m. August 7, 1964
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